UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(3)/1
28 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Third session
Recife, 15-26 November 1999
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	PROVISIONAL AGENDA	1	2
II.	ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA	2-58	5

Annexes

I.	List of documents prepared for the third session of the Conference of the Parties and other documents of relevance	18
II.	Tentative schedule of work for the third session of the Conference of the Parties	24

GE.99-63592

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The provisional agenda presented for adoption is as follows:

1. Election of the President.

2. Election of other officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Credentials of delegations.

5. Accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, admission of observers.

6. Arrangements for the functioning of the Permanent Secretariat:

   (a) Headquarters agreement with the Government of Germany;

   (b) Medium-term strategy of the secretariat.

7. Programme and budget:

   (a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001;

   (b) Related budget decisions;

   (c) Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds in 1999;

   (d) Programme of work for the fourth and fifth sessions of the Conference of the Parties.

8. Implementation of the Convention:

   (a) Review of reports on implementation of affected African country Parties, including on the participatory process and on experiences gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes;

   (b) Consideration of progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa;

   (c) Review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention;

(d) Review of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention;

(e) Review of the report by the secretariat on its activities in assisting developing country Parties in the preparation of reports on the implementation of the Convention;

(f) Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention;

(g) Consideration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention.

9. Committee on Science and Technology:

(a) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it;

(b) Consideration of some specific conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee on Science and Technology relating to affected country Parties' experiences and constraints in the implementation of action programmes;

(c) Maintenance of the roster of experts;

(d) Creation of an ad hoc panel or panels of experts, if necessary, with their terms of reference.

10. Global Mechanism:

(a) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report on policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it;

(b) Consideration of, with a view to adopting, the revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development;

(c) Review of the report by the International Fund for Agricultural Development on its collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other interested organizations, including the private sector.

11. Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies.

12. Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties.

13. Outstanding items:

(a) Consideration and approval of the rule of procedure not yet agreed upon: rule 47;

(b) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions of implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward;

(c) Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6 of the Convention;

(d) Consideration of the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc group to examine and make recommendations on the issues of arbitration and conciliation procedures.

14. Report of the session.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

Venue

2. By its decision 24/COP.2[1], the Conference of the Parties (COP) accepted the invitation of the Government of Brazil to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 3) to the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) in Recife. The session will be opened by the Executive Secretary at the Convention Centre of Pernambuco, Recife, on Monday, 15 November 1999.

Logistic arrangements

3. A few weeks before the opening of COP 3, the secretariat will distribute an information note detailing registration and security procedures, as well as other logistic arrangements for the session.

Participants

4. In accordance with article 36, paragraph 2, of the CCD, for each State or regional economic integration organization which ratifies, accepts or approves the CCD or accedes thereto after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the CCD enters into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit with the Depositary of the relevant instrument. Consequently, the Parties as of the opening of COP 3 on 15 November will be the States and regional economic integration organizations that have deposited their instruments by 17 August 1999. Those which deposit their instruments after 17 August 1999 and by 28 August 1999 will become Parties during COP 3. Those that do so after 28 August 1999 will not become Parties until after the closure of the session but can participate in the session as observers, along with United Nations specialized agencies, accredited intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. Relevant information on the status of ratifications is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/INF.4.

Agenda

5. By its decision 2/COP.2, the COP decided to include in the agenda for its third session certain selected items and other standing items on its agenda. These have been taken into account in the provisional agenda prepared for COP 3, in addition to issues arising from other decisions.

---

[1] For decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its second session, see document ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1.

Documentation

6. A list of documents for the session and other documents of relevance is provided in annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the secretariat's World Wide Web site at the following address on the Internet: <http://www.unccd.de>.

1. Election of the President

7. Rule 22 of the rules of procedure adopted by the COP (decision 1/COP.1[2] as amended by decision 20/COP.2) provides for the election of the President from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary will call for the election of the President.

2. Election of other officers

8. Pursuant to rule 22 of the rules of procedure (as amended by decision 20/COP.2), nine Vice-Presidents and the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology, who, with the President, are to serve as the Bureau of the session, shall be elected from the representatives of the Parties present at the session, in a manner that every geographical region shall be represented by at least two members. The President will call for the election of these officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

9. The COP will have before it the above provisional agenda, which it may consider adopting. Annex II contains a tentative schedule of work for the session, on which the subsections below elaborate.

Purpose of the session

10. The Conference of the Parties, at its second session, adopted a decision on its programme of work (decision 2/COP.2), which included standing as well as selected items for discussion at COP 3. These items have been incorporated in the provisional agenda. The CCD provides, in article 22, paragraph 2(a), that the COP shall regularly review the implementation of the CCD and the functioning of its institutional arrangements. The organization of work of the session is designed to facilitate such activities, focussing attention on outstanding issues requiring resolution.

---

[2] For decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, see document ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1.

Opening meeting

11. As to the structure of the opening plenary, the COP may wish to consider the following scenario. The President would make a statement after his or her election. Statements would be made on behalf of regional groups, to be followed by an opportunity for statements by representatives of United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations and one representative of non-governmental organizations. The Executive Secretary would then present an overview of issues before COP 3, introduce the documents prepared by the secretariat, and present a status report on ratifications of, or accessions to the CCD.

Establishment of a Committee of the Whole and allocation of its tasks

12. The practice followed at COP 2 was to establish a sessional Committee of the Whole (COW), chaired by a Vice-President of the COP and open to participation of all delegations. This could be done at COP 3. The Committee of the Whole would recommend decisions on outstanding issues for adoption by the COP. Its Chair would have the authority to delegate work, as appropriate, to drafting groups. Accordingly, the COP may wish to establish a Committee of the Whole at its opening plenary and to designate its Chair. The COP could allocate to the Committee of the Whole the following items: programme and budget, consideration of an additional regional implementation annex, the unagreed rule of procedure referred to below, procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions of implementation, consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, and any other issue.

Committee on Science and Technology

13. The Committee on Science and Technology (CST) is tentatively scheduled to meet from 16 to 18 November. In accordance with decision 12/COP.2, the secretariat has prepared document ICCD/COP(3)/CST/1 containing a provisional annotated agenda for the Committee's work, as well as other documents needed for its deliberations, which are listed in annex I.

Initial segment

14. It is proposed in the tentative schedule that COP 3 be divided into two segments. During the initial segment from 15 to 19 November, in addition to the CST meeting, the Committee of the Whole would advance in its work in accordance with the agenda of the COP. The plenary would meet on Friday 19 November to hear reports from the Committee of the Whole and the CST, to take all possible decisions on issues before the COP, to review the organization of work for the second week, and to provide for further meetings of the Committee of the Whole if necessary.

Special segment on Convention implementation

15. At the special segment on 22, 23 and the morning of 24 November, Parties with representation at the appropriate level would have an opportunity to review and make statements on the implementation of the Convention.

16. By its decision 2/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties decided to review the implementation of the Convention in the African region, on the basis of submissions made by the affected African country Parties, which would also be undertaken during the special segment. Document ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2 contains a compilation of such submissions prepared by the secretariat.

17. By the same decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to review also the implementation of the Convention, on the basis of submissions made by the developed country Parties, by relevant United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations on their activities in support of the preparation of action programmes, which would also be undertaken during the special segment. Documents ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.1 and ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.3 contain a compilation of such submissions prepared by the secretariat. The special segment could also take decisions on any issues remaining outstanding after the first week.

Parallel event

19. An interparliamentary round table on the contribution parliaments can make to the implementation of the Convention is planned for Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 November 1999. It would involve the participation of parliamentarians from a number of countries. It is anticipated that any outcome from the round table would be communicated to the COP for consideration.

Concluding plenary

19. The concluding plenary of COP 3 will take any decisions not previously adopted. It will also have before it for adoption the report on credentials to be submitted by the Bureau. Finally, it will have to decide upon the date and venue of the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties, taking account of:

(a) Article 22, paragraph 4 of the CCD which provides that, unless otherwise decided by the COP, the second, third and fourth ordinary sessions shall be held yearly;

(b) Rule 4, paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure, which provides that, at each ordinary session, the COP shall decide on the date and duration of the next ordinary session and that the COP should endeavour not to hold such sessions at a time which would make the attendance of a significant number of delegations difficult;

(c) Rule 3 of the rules of procedure, which states that the sessions of the COP shall take place at the seat of the secretariat, unless the COP decides otherwise or other appropriate arrangements are made by the secretariat in consultation with the Parties;

(d) Decision 1/COP.2, which provides that the fifth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties shall take place in the year 2001, and that, thereafter, ordinary sessions shall be held every two years; and

(e) Any offers to host the fourth session and cover the incremental costs thereof.

20. The proposed schedule allows for the afternoon of 25 November to be available for the preparation of final documents for consideration and decision at the final plenary on the morning of 26 November. Accordingly, all negotiations should be concluded by the lunch break on 25 November.

Times of meetings

21. The tentative schedule aims to make best use of the facilities available during normal working hours. No scheduling or budgetary provision has been made for evening or weekend sessions. Consistent with local working hours and to avoid incurring overtime expenses, the normal working hours of COP 3 will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. No provision has been made for more than two meetings to be held with interpretation services at any one time.

4. Credentials of delegations

22. Rule 19 of the rules of procedure provides: "The credentials of representatives as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat if possible not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the session. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization." Rule 20 of the rules of procedure provides: "The Bureau of any session shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties for decision." In addition, rule 21 provides: "Representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the session, pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties to accept their credentials."

5. Accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, admission of observers

23. Article 22, paragraph 7 of the CCD provides: "The United Nations, its specialized agencies and any State member thereof or observers thereto not Party to the Convention, may be represented at sessions of the Conference of the Parties as observers. Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention, and which has informed the Permanent Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer, may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present object". Rule 7 of the rules of procedure contains provisions to similar effect.

24. Decision 26/COP.1 contains provisions on accrediting non-governmental organizations and according observer status to intergovernmental organizations to the first and subsequent sessions of the COP. In accordance with these procedures, document ICCD/COP(3)/15 contains a list of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations newly proposed for accreditation at the COP.

6. Arrangements for the functioning of the Permanent Secretariat

(a) Headquarters agreement with the Government of Germany

25. By its decision 4/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties approved the headquarters agreement signed on 18 August 1998 with the Federal Republic of Germany, and requested the Executive Secretary to report to COP 3 on its ratification and entry into force. Document ICCD/COP(3)/8 contains the relevant information on this matter.

(b) Medium-term strategy of the secretariat

26. By its decision 7/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties asked the Executive Secretary to prepare a new document on the medium-term strategy of the secretariat on the basis of observations made during the second session, as well as of written submissions by the Parties. Document ICCD/COP(3)/6 is submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

7. Programme and budget

(a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001

27. Article 22, paragraph 2(g) of the Convention calls on the COP to approve a programme and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies, and to undertake necessary arrangements for their financing. At its second session, the COP approved by its decision 6/COP.2 the revised core budget of the Convention for 1999 and the establishment of a new trust fund for the special annual contribution from the Government of Germany, and requested the Executive Secretary

to submit to COP 3 a proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The report of the Executive Secretary is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/2.

28. By the same decision, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report on the financial performance of the Convention. The related information is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/4.

(b) Related budget decisions

29. As detailed in document ICCD/COP(3)/2, the decision on programme and budget that the COP will consider for adoption will contain all elements required by the CCD and the Financial Rules of the COP.

(c) Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds in 1999

30. By its decision 6/COP.2, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report on the status of the Trust Funds established under the Financial Rules. Document ICCD/COP(3)/3 provides actual and estimated expenditures in 1999 from the Trust Fund, the Special Voluntary Fund and the Bonn Fund. Additionally, a summary report on expenditures from the same funds from 1993 to 1998, is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/INF.2.

(d) Programme of work for the fourth and fifth sessions of the Conference of the Parties

31. By its decision 2/COP.2 the Conference of the Parties decided to include in the agenda of its fourth session and, if necessary, of its fifth session the review of national, regional and subregional action programmes in regions other than Africa. The COP may wish to review this programme of work for the next sessions as appropriate.

8. Implementation of the Convention

32. In accordance with article 22, paragraphs 2(a) and 2(b), and article 26, of the Convention, the COP is to review implementation of the CCD and its institutional arrangements. Participants will have an opportunity to conduct such a review during the special segment on Convention implementation. The secretariat has updated the information contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/5 on its activities in supporting the implementation of the Convention, and this report is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/5.

(a) Review of reports on implementation of affected African country Parties, including on the participatory process and on experiences gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes

33. By its decision 2/COP.2, the COP decided that the review of implementation of the Convention would be conducted at its third session on the basis of reports by affected African country Parties. In accordance with procedures contained in decision 11/COP.1, the secretariat has compiled a summary of such reports and a synthesis setting out the trends emerging in the implementation of the Convention. This information is contained in document

(b) Consideration of progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa

34. By the same decision 2/COP.2, the COP also decided to consider at its third session the progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa. The secretariat prepared the document ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.5 on the basis of information submitted by African intergovernmental organizations.

(c) Review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention

35. By its decision 2/COP.2, the COP decided to review the measures undertaken by developed country Parties in assisting the preparation and implementation of action programmes. Document ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.1 provides a compilation of reports received by the Parties.

(d) Review of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention

36. By the same decision 2/COP.2, the COP decided to review the activities of United Nations organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes. The secretariat has prepared document ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.3 on information provided by such organizations.

37. By its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided to include, as a standing item on its agenda, a review of available information on the financing of the Convention by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2(b) of the Convention. There

will be an opportunity during the special segment on Convention implementation for relevant agencies and institutions to give information on support they have provided, including financial support, to affected country Parties in the implementation of the Convention by those Parties.

(e) Review of the report by the secretariat on its activities in assisting developing country Parties in the preparation of reports on the implementation of the Convention

38. The information related to activities of the secretariat in supporting developing country Parties in the preparation of reports on the implementation of the Convention is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.4. In addition, the secretariat has prepared a help guide for national reporting, and this is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/INF.3.

(f) Consideration of additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention

39. By its decision 10/COP.2, the COP decided to consider at its third session the need to establish additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist it in its task of regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention, as contained in decision 10/COP.1, on the basis of written submissions by the Parties. The secretariat has compiled the submissions and this report is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/17.

(g) Consideration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention

40. By its decision 11/COP.2, the COP invited the countries of central and eastern Europe to pursue consultations with a view to producing a draft additional regional implementation annex to the Convention and to submit such a draft for consideration by the COP at its third session. This is presented in document ICCD/COP(3)/16 for discussion and any action the COP may wish to take.

9. Committee on Science and Technology

(a) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology, including its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it

(b) Consideration of some specific conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee on Science and Technology relating to affected country Parties' experiences and constraints in the implementation of action programmes

41. In accordance with decision 9/COP.1, the review of the CST report constitutes a standing item on the agenda of the COP. The report of the Committee will describe the CST work programme in the period after COP 3. The CST will also be transmitting to it draft decisions resulting from the deliberations at its second session. The COP may wish to discuss the programme of work, make suggestions for its revision and provide any necessary guidance to the CST.

(c) Maintenance of the roster of experts

42. Article 24, paragraph 2 of the CCD provides that the COP shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. Procedures related to the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts were adopted by the COP by its decision 18/COP.1. In accordance with decision 13/COP.2, Parties were invited to supplement their submissions to the secretariat for inclusion in the roster to ensure that under-represented areas were addressed, in particular by: (a) making the roster more balanced in terms of gender equity; (b) ensuring better representation of relevant disciplines; (c) increasing representation of experts from non-governmental and international organizations. The updated roster is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/14 and Add.1 and is being made available in electronic form in accordance with decision 13/COP.2.

(d) Creation of an ad hoc panel or panels of experts, if necessary, with their terms of reference

43. Article 24, paragraph 3 of the CCD provides for the creation of ad hoc panels as necessary by the Conference of the Parties. In decision 14/COP.2, the COP appointed an ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge. After considering the report of the CST, the COP may wish to consider appointing ad hoc panels, including reappointing the ad hoc panel already established, as necessary, in accordance with the procedures contained in decision 17/COP.1 for the establishment of ad hoc panels.

10. Global Mechanism

(a) Review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2(d) of the Convention, of the report on policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and the provision of guidance to it

44. By its decision 18/COP.2, the COP decided to undertake, at its third session, the first review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, with a view to considering and taking appropriate action on this matter. This could be done on the basis of the report on the Global Mechanism contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/11.

45. By the same decision, the COP requested the Global Mechanism to establish an ongoing process for consultation and collaboration with non-governmental

organizations as well as with the private sector, and to submit a report to the COP at its third session for consideration and to take appropriate action. The report from the Global Mechanism is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/11/Add.1, in accordance with the reporting requirements of the Convention and decisions 24/COP.1 and 25/COP.1.

(b) Consideration of, with a view to adopting, the revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development

46. By decision 19/COP.2, the secretariat was requested to continue consultations on the text of the draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and to submit a revised draft memorandum of understanding for consideration and decision by the COP at its third session. The revised draft memorandum of understanding is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/10.

47. By the same decision, the COP decided to transmit to its third session the draft decision ICCD/COP(2)/L.19, concerning the adoption and entry into force of the draft memorandum of understanding between COP and IFAD as contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1. A draft decision is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/10/Add.1 for consideration and any action the COP may wish to take.

(c) Review of the report by the International Fund for Agriculture Development on its collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other interested organizations, including the private sector

48. By decision 18/COP.2, IFAD was invited to pursue modalities of collaboration with the community of non-governmental organizations and other interested organizations, including the private sector, and to report accordingly. The report from IFAD is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/12.

11. Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies

49. By its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided to include the topic of the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other conventions in accordance with article 8 and article 22, paragraph 2(i) of the Convention as a standing item on its agenda.

50. By its decision 2/COP.2, the COP decided also to undertake at its third session a review of the activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies. The related information is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/9.

51. In addition, the secretariat has prepared a report on relations and synergies with the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with article 20, paragraph 2(b) of the Convention and decision 14/COP.1. This is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/9/Add.1.

12. Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties

52. By decision 27/COP.1, the COP requested that additional open dialogue sessions organized by non-governmental organizations occur within the official programme of work of future sessions of the COP, and that the secretariat of the Convention make all efforts to facilitate inclusion of at least two such half-day sessions within the official programme of work. Such sessions would be organized in consultation with the secretariat and the Bureau of the COP through the President. Half-day sessions have been tentatively scheduled for the afternoons of Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 November 1999.

53. The COP may wish to consider requesting the secretariat, drawing on discussions at COP 2 and in consultation with the non-governmental organizations community, to develop a draft work programme on this item for consideration at COP 4.

13. Outstanding items

(a) Consideration and approval of the rules of procedure not yet agreed upon: rule 47

54. In accordance with article 22, paragraph 2(e) of the CCD, the COP shall "agree upon and adopt, by consensus, rules of procedure ... for itself and any subsidiary bodies." At its first session, by its decision 1/COP.1, the COP decided to adopt its rules of procedure, with the exception of some paragraphs contained in rules 22, 31 and 47. At its second session, by its decision 20/COP.2, the COP amended the text of rules 22 and 31. By its decision 21/COP.2, the COP decided also to further consider paragraph 1 of rule 47 of the rules of procedure not yet agreed upon. The text resulting from this decision is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/13. The COP may wish to give further consideration to this outstanding issue and adopt by consensus the rule of procedure not yet agreed upon.

(b) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward

55. By its decision 2/COP.2, the COP decided to include in the agenda of its third session the consideration, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions of implementation. Document

ICCD/COP(3)/18 contains a report prepared by the secretariat on this matter. The report includes a draft text, which takes into account document A/AC.241/50, which was previously considered by members of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification (INCD) at its eighth session.

(c) Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6 of the Convention

56. By its decision 2/COP.2, the COP decided to include in the agenda of its third session the consideration, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6 of the CCD, of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures. By its decision 22/COP.2, the COP also decided to consider this issue further at its third session, in the light of progress of the negotiations on the same issues in other relevant environmental conventions. The report contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/7 includes draft texts which take into account document A/AC.241/51 which was previously presented to members of the INCD at its eighth session.

(d) Consideration of the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc group to examine and make recommendations on the issues of arbitration and conciliation procedures

57. By its decision 22/COP.2, the COP decided to consider at its third session the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc group to examine and make recommendations on the issues of arbitration and conciliation procedures, taking into account the document prepared by the secretariat. Reference to this matter is made in document ICCD/COP(3)/7.

14. Report of the session

58. A draft report on the session will be prepared for adoption at the final plenary, in accordance with established practice. The COP is invited to authorize the Rapporteur to complete the final report after the session, with the assistance of the secretariat and under the guidance of the President.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS OF RELEVANCE

ICCD/COP(3)/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(3)/2	Programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001
ICCD/COP(3)/3	Programme and budget: review of the situation as regards to the Supplementary Fund, Special Fund and Bonn Fund
ICCD/COP(3)/3/Add.1	Programme and budget: review of the situation as regards to the Supplementary Fund, Special Fund and Bonn Fund
ICCD/COP(3)/4	Financial performance of 1999 budget (January-June)
ICCD/COP(3)/5	Review of the implementation of the Convention, including support to regional action programmes
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.1	Reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist affected African country Parties in the preparation and implementation of action programmes
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2	Reports on implementation of the Convention by affected African country Parties
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.3	Information provided by United Nations organisations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on their support to the preparation and implementation of action programmes in Africa
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.4	Assistance provided by the secretariat to developing country Parties in preparation of national reports
ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.5	Progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa
ICCD/COP(3)/6	Medium-term strategy of the secretariat (revised)
ICCD/COP(3)/7	Procedures for resolution of questions, arbitration and conciliation
ICCD/COP(3)/8	Headquarters agreement with the Government of Germany
ICCD/COP(3)/9	Collaboration with other international bodies and conventions
ICCD/COP(3)/9/Add.1	Relations between the secretariat and the Global Environment Facility
ICCD/COP(3)/10	Revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development
ICCD/COP(3)/10/Add.1	Adoption and entry into force of the draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development
ICCD/COP(3)/11	Report on policies, operational strategy, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism
ICCD/COP(3)/11/Add.1	Report by the Global Mechanism on consultation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the private sector

ICCD/COP(3)/12	Report by IFAD on collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other organizations, including the private sector
ICCD/COP(3)/13	Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure
ICCD/COP(3)/14	Roster of independent experts: note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(3)/14/Add.1	Roster of independent experts
ICCD/COP(3)/15	List of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation as observers
ICCD/COP(3)/16	Draft additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for central and eastern European countries
ICCD/COP(3)/17	Establishment of additional procedures and/or institutional mechanisms to review the implementation of the Convention
ICCD/COP(3)/18	Procedure and institutional mechanism for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to implementation of the Convention
ICCD/COP(3)/19	Credentials of delegations: report of the Bureau to the COP
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.1	Preliminary information for participants
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.2	Extrabudgetary funds: summary report 1993-1998 (update of document ICCD/COP(2)/Inf.2)
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.3	UNCCD National Reports Help Guide
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.4	Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(3)/INF.5	UNCCD directory of focal points

List of documents prepared for the third session of the Committee on Science and Technology

ICCD/COP(3)/CST/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the CST
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/2	Synthesis on important and widely applied traditional knowledge on a subregional and regional basis and on a national scale
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3	Report by the ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.1	Linkage of the work of CCD on traditional knowledge with that of related conventions
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.2	Report on traditional knowledge in dryland ecosystems
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/4	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/5	Other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST: potential areas of cooperation between CCD and other bodies
ICCD/COP(3)/CST/6	Report on existing experiences of early-warning systems and on specialised institutions acting in this field

Other documents:

Second session of the Conference of the Parties

ICCD/COP(2)/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(2)/2	Programme and budget
ICCD/COP(2)/3	Programme and budget: review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
ICCD/COP(2)/3/Add.1	Programme and budget: review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
ICCD/COP(2)/4	Global Mechanism
ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1	Global Mechanism: memorandum of understanding
ICCD/COP(2)/5	Review of implementation, including support to regional action programmes
ICCD/COP(2)/6	Medium-term strategy for the secretariat
ICCD/COP(2)/7	Collaboration with other conventions
ICCD/COP(2)/8	Headquarters arrangements
ICCD/COP(2)/8/Add.1	Headquarters arrangements: agreement
ICCD/COP(2)/8/Add.2	Headquarters arrangements: relocation and possible liaison arrangements
ICCD/COP(2)/9	Report on institutional and interim arrangements for the Conference of the Parties and the Convention secretariat
ICCD/COP(2)/10	Resolution of questions, arbitration and conciliation procedures
ICCD/COP(2)/11	Roster of independent experts
ICCD/COP(2)/11/Add.1	Roster of independent experts
ICCD/COP(2)/12	List of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations recommended for accreditation as observers
ICCD/COP(2)/13	Credentials of delegations
ICCD/COP(2)/13/Rev.1	Credentials of delegations
ICCD/COP(2)/14	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session (Part One)
ICCD/COP(2)/14/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session (Part Two)
ICCD/COP(2)/INF.1	Preliminary information for participants
ICCD/COP(2)/INF.2	Extrabudgetary funds: summary report (1993-1997)
ICCD/COP(2)/INF.3	Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(2)/INF.4	Preliminary list of focal points

Second session of the Committee on Science and Technology

ICCD/COP(2)/CST/1	Adoption of agenda and organization of work of the CST
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2	Survey and evaluation of existing networks
ICCD/COP(2)CST/3	Report on work on benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3/Add.1	Supplementary report on work on benchmarks and indicators: report of ad hoc panel

ICCD/COP(2)/CST/4	Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5	Traditional knowledge

First session of the Conference of the Parties

ICCD/COP(1)/11	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session (Part One)
ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session (Part Two)

Selected other documents for reference at the third session of the Conference of the Parties

Documents prepared for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification (INCD):

A/AC.241/44	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements
A/AC.241/54/Add.2	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
A/AC.241/63	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location

Others:

Eighth session

A/AC.241/43	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/50	Procedures to resolve questions on implementation
A/AC.241/51	Procedures for conciliation and arbitration

Ninth session

A/AC.241/56	Identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/58	Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention

Tenth session (first part)

A/AC.241/68	Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in implementation of the Convention, its subsidiary bodies and Permanent Secretariat
A/AC.241/INF.4	Report on ongoing work being done on benchmarks and indicators

Reports of INCD sessions:

A/49/84/Add.2	Report of the INCD on its fifth session
A/50/74	Report of the INCD on its sixth session
A/50/74/Add.1	Report of the INCD on its seventh session
A/50/76	Report of the INCD on its eighth session
A/51/76/Add.1	Report of the INCD on its ninth session
A/52/82	Report of the INCD on its tenth session (first part)
A/52/82/Add.1	Report of the INCD on its tenth session (resumed part)

General Assembly resolutions:

Resolution 47/188 of 2 December 1992

- Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 48/191 of 21 December 1993

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 49/115 of 19 December 1994

- Observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 51/180 of 16 December 1996

- Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

Resolution 51/238 of 17 June 1997

- Use of the Special Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188

Resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997

- Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Any relevant resolutions of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

Annex II

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Monday 15 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	Informal consultations	1. Opening of the Conference by Executive Secretary of CCD 2. Election of President of COP 3. Statement by the President 4. Statement by Under-Secretary-General on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations 5. Statement by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 6. Statement by the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization 7. Statement by the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development 8. Statement by the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility 9. Statements by other heads of United Nations agencies and programmes and executive secretaries of convention secretariats 10. Statement by representative of non-governmental organizations 11. Statement by Executive Secretary of CCD 12. Adoption of the agenda (ICCD/COP(3)/1) 13. Election of other officers, including Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology 14. Adoption of organization of work and establishment of Committee of the Whole (ICCD/COP(3)/1) 15. Admission of observers and accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations (ICCD/COP(3)/15)
COW	- -	- -
CST	- -	- -

Tuesday 16 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	- Other statements by Parties and observers	To be determined
COW	To be determined	- Organization of work including review of outstanding items - Programme and budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (ICCD/COP(3)/2)
CST	- Organization of work (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/1) - Establishment of roster of experts (ICCD/COP(3)/14 and Add.1) - Survey and evaluation of networks (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/4)	- Bodies doing work of relevance to CST (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/5) - Benchmarks and indicators (ICCD/COP(3)/5) - Traditional knowledge (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/2 and ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3)

Wednesday 17 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	- -	- -
COW	- Extrabudgetary funding (ICCD/COP(3)/3) - Financial performance of 1999 (ICCD/COP(3)/3) - Headquarters arrangements (ICCD/COP(3)/8) - Medium-term strategy of the secretariat (ICCD/COP(3)/6)	- Implementation of the Convention: reports from affected African country Parties (ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2)
CST	- Traditional knowledge (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.1 and Add.2)	- Early warning systems (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/6)

Thursday 18 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	- -	- -
COW	- Implementation of the Convention: reports from affected African country Parties (ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2)	- Implementation of the Convention: subregional and regional action programmes in Africa (ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.5)
CST	- Early warning systems (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/6) - Creation of ad hoc panel(s) - Drafting of recommendations to COP	- Programme of work for CST - Adoption of recommendations to COP

Friday 19 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	To be determined	- Arrangements for the Permanent Secretariat: headquarters agreement with Germany and medium-term strategy - Report of Committee of the Whole - Report of CST
COW	- Implementation of the Convention: developed country Parties, United Nations organizations, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations (ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.1 and Add.3)	To be determined
CST	To be determined	- -

	Monday 22 November 1999	
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	Special segment on implementation of the Convention: - Reports from affected African country Parties	Special segment on implementation of the Convention : - Reports from affected African country Parties
COW	- Report on the Global Mechanism (ICCD/COP(3)/11 and Add.1) - Report by IFAD (ICCD/COP(3)/12) - Revised draft MOU between COP and IFAD (ICCD/COP(3)/10 and Add.1)	- Activities of secretariat to assist developing country Parties on the preparation of national reports (ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.4) - Relationship with other conventions and bodies (ICCD/COP(3)/9)
CST	- -	- -

	Tuesday 23 November 1999	
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	Special segment on implementation of the Convention: - Implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa - Reports from developed country Parties on measures to assist in the implementation of national action programmes	Special segment on implementation of the Convention: - Reports from United Nations organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on activities to assist in the implementation of national action programmes
COW	- Additional regional implementation annex to the Convention (ICCD/COP(3)/16)	- Rule 47 of rules of procedure (ICCD/COP(3)/13) - Procedures for resolution of questions of implementation (ICCD/COP(3)/18)
CST	- -	- -

Wednesday 24 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	Special segment on implementation of the Convention: - Report of the Round Table of Parliamentarians	- Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official COP work programme
COW	- Annex for conciliation and arbitration procedures (ICCD/COP(3)/7) - Establishment of an open-ended ad hoc group (ICCD/COP(3)/7)	- Programme of work for COP 4 and COP 5
CST	- -	- -

Thursday 25 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	- Report on conclusions of the Committee of the Whole - Outstanding rules of procedure	- Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official work programme of the COP
COW	To be determined	To be determined
CST	- -	- -

Friday 26 November 1999		
	10 a.m. - 1 p.m	**3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**
PLENARY	- Adoption of conclusions of the Committee of the Whole - Other actions to be taken by the COP - Report of the session	To be determined
COW	To be determined	- -
CST	- -	- -